Suspect Sudden Oak Death Disease?

To enhance our early detection of sudden oak death (SOD) pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, Nevada Department of Agriculture Plant Pathology Laboratory has established a protocol for testing *Phytophthora ramorum* from suspected host plants. Effective in 2004, the Plant Pathology Laboratory will accept samples from native vegetation, landscape areas, forest, Sierra Mountains, parks and recreation areas, nurseries, and home yards for testing SOD. This is a strict disease detection program only, and should not be considered as a general diagnosis service. The purpose of this detection is to monitor sudden oak death pathogen in the state and to complement state and federal quarantine programs. It also provides laboratory confirmation service to clients who have SOD-suspected plants. To ensure quality of this detection program, please follow the instructions below.

What symptoms are considered suspicious?

Trees: Any black oozing, bleeding, or exuding sap on the major trunk, especially on the lower part of trunk are suspicious sign of infection by SOD pathogen. It is often seen that the surface of oozing area is stained with brownish to black color due to dryness of oozing sap. In Northern Nevada, the symptoms are most noticeable on oak trees and maple trees, especially mature silver maples. Sampling from trees requires special tools and care to ensure high quality of samples. So please call phone number below for appointing a professional sampling.

Shrubs: Any blight or dieback symptoms on branches or twigs are very suspicious. Leaf spots may occur in some cases, but are mostly associated with branch dieback. Samples from shrubs can be taken by clients, but a complete sample should be a live branch that contains both healthy part and sick part showing typical blight or dieback symptoms.

What kinds of plants should be considered?

Phytophthora ramorum has a broad host range. There is no doubt that more and more species of plants will be found to be the host of the pathogen. The following plants are potential targets:

Oaks (*Quercus spp*.)
Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
Big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)
CA buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*)
CA coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)
Cost redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron spp*.)
Arrowwood (*Viburnum spp*.)
Evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)
CA bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)

Western starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*)
Sasangua camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*)
Pieeris 'Forest Flame' (*Pieris formosa* x *japonica*)
Pieris 'Brouwer's Beauty' (*Pieris floribunda* x *japonica*)
Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*)
Doublefile viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum*)
Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

What to do if you notice suspicious plants?

As mentioned above, if an oak or maple tree is suspicious for SOD, call Nevada Department of Agriculture (775-688-1180 extension 246) for scheduling an appointment. To ensure efficiency of the detection, any suspicious tree reported will be evaluated for suitability for this program based on the client's description before a sampling schedule can be made.

For shrubs, take representative samples from suspicious plants. Each sample should include leaves, twigs, and/or branches that contain both healthy tissues and symptomatic tissues. Multiple samples may be required to represent different types of symptoms. Samples should be placed in clean plastic bags and delivered to the plant pathology laboratory at 350 Capitol Hill Avenue, Reno, NV 89502. Samples from other than Reno/Sparks/Carson City area should be shipped by overnight mail to guarantee freshness and quality of samples. Please label the sample with reference to sudden oak death detection program.

The test for SOD is free

Even though the cost for testing per sample is high, there is no charge to clients. Please note, only positive results will be reported to clients. Clients without receiving a report within 4 weeks should consider the sample to be negative of sudden oak death pathogen. Plants with a positive result of SOD will be eradicated promptly to protect the rest of plants from infection by this dangerous pathogen.